

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LIMA 02182 172336Z
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01
AID-05 /062 W
-----181021Z 095508 /20

R 172249Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY LIMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4089
INFO AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMEMBASSY QUITO
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LIMA 2182

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, CI, PE
SUBJECT: LIMA PRESS COVERAGE OF PRIME MINISTER ARBULU'S VISIT TO
CHILE

REF: SANTIAGO 1711

1. THE LIMA PRESS HAS BEEN GIVING PROMINENT COVERAGE TO PRIME
MINISTER/MINISTER OF WAR GUILLERMO ARBULU GALLIANI'S ONGOING SEVEN-
DAY VISIT TO CHILE AS GUEST OF GOC DEFENSE MINISTER GEN. HERNAN
BRADY. ALL DAILIES HEADLINE THE PRIME MINISTER'S MESSAGE OF PEACE
AND FRIENDSHIP AND HIS CHARGE THAT OUTSIDE INTERESTS, INCLUDING
INTERNATIONAL ARMS TRAFFICKERS, HAVE WORKED TO RAISE TENSIONS
AND CREATE AN ATMOSPHERE OF CONFLICT BETWEEN PERU AND CHILE.
TYPICAL PRESS PLAY INCLUDES MARCH 16 GOP DAILY LA CRONICA HEAD-
LINE ASSERTING THAT "MANEUVERS INTENDED TO DESTROY PEACE BETWEEN
CHILE AND PERU WILL FAIL" AND EXPRESO HEADLINE THAT "PERU AND
CHILE TOTALLY REJECT EFFORTS MADE BY OTHERS TO CAUSE CONFLICT
BETWEEN THEM". THE MARCH 15 EXPRESO HEADLINE WAS "ARMS
SALESMEN SEEK WAR BETWEEN CHILE AND PERU".

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2. THE LIMA PRESS ALSO EMPHASIZES ARBULU'S REPEATED ASSERTIONS
OF PERU'S PEACEFUL INTENTIONS. SOME OF HIS FEATURED COMMENTS:
"SPECULATIONS OF A POSSIBLE CONFRONTATION BETWEEN THE TWO
COUNTRIES MUST CEASE..."; "INSTEAD OF AN ARMAMENT RACE, WE
(ACTUALLY) HAVE A RACE TOWARD PEACE, TOWARD MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING..."
;
AND "IF WE, THE ONES WHO PARTICIPATE IN OUR COUNTRIES' LEADERSHIP

SAY WE DO NOT WANT WAR, THAT SHOULD BE ENOUGH (TO SQUELCH RUMORS)".

3. COMMENT: THE GOP IS PUBLICIZING HIGH LEVEL PERU/CHILE EXCHANGE VISITS TO THE MAXIMUM AS A MEANS OF EMPHASIZING PERU'S PEACEFUL INTENTIONS AND TO ATTEST TO PERU/CHILE FRIENDSHIP. THE GOP OBVIOUSLY HOPES THAT ITS NEIGHBORS' CONCERN OVER MOTIVATION BEHIND MAJOR ARMS PURCHASES WILL BE EASED BY PERU'S DEMONSTRATIVE COMMITMENT TO PEACE AND FRIENDSHIP. ALTHOUGH PERU'S NEIGHBORS WILL CONTINUE TO HAVE RESERVATIONS ABOUT GOP INTENTIONS, AN EXACERBATION OF TENSIONS WOULD PRESUMABLY NOT BE IN THEIR INTEREST. THEREFORE, THEY EXPRESS AND ACCEPT DECLARATIONS OF FRIENDSHIP, BLAMING ANY REGIONAL TENSIONS ON OCCULT FOREIGN INTERESTS AND SPECIFICALLY THOSE "INTERNATIONAL ARMS TRAFFICKERS" (APPARENTLY NOT INCLUDING STATES AS ARMS MERCHANTS) WHO WOULD PRESUMABLY BENEFIT FROM WAR. WHILE PUBLIC EXPRESSIONS OF PEACE ARE NOT NECESSARILY EVIDENCE OF NATIONAL INTENTIONS, THEY DO HELP FORM A PSYCHOLOGICAL CLIMATE WHICH AIDS IN KEEPING THE DOGS OF WAR AT BAY, AND THE VISITS THEMSELVES SERVE TO IMPROVE MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING AS WELL AS AVOID POSSIBLE MISCALCULATIONS.

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Message Attributes

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Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 17-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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